

Kinth preceding

1079. c. 12
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T H E .

OLD LADY

And her NIECE

The Fair INCOGNITA,
Detected and brought to Justice.

In which are laid open

The many strange Expedients, fly Artifices,
and various uncommon and ridiculous
Disguises they made use to conceal
themselves.

To which is prefix'd,

A serious Attempt to vindicate their Innocence,
and apologize for their odd Humours.



L O N D O N :

Printed for M. COOPER, at the Globe in
Pater-noster-Row. 1752.

[Price Six-Pence.]

THE OLD LADY *W. Musgrave!*

The Fair INCOGNITA

Detected and brought to Justice.

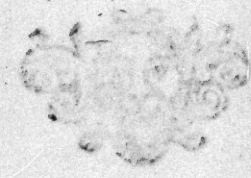
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P R E F A C E.

AS the writing of Conundrums is a Species of Composition unknown to the Ancients, a Strain of Wit beyond the Reach of their inferior Geniuses, so there are no Rules laid down for it either in *Aristotle*, or *Longinus*, in *Horace* or *Quintilian*. This noble Field therefore is left to the Cultivation of the Moderns, and their adequate Abilities will no doubt make fine Improvements in it. Hedges clipt into the agreeable Shape of Walls, and Trees and Shrubs transform'd into Birds, Beasts, and Fishes, are nothing in comparifon with the amazing Metamorphoses, which

every Object in Nature is liable to from this transcendent Art. What a Stretch of Imagination must that Genius have, which could change a † Bafon into a Baftard, or a fine Lady in Debt into a Pair of Bel-lows? Here turn not up thy Nose in Derifion, good Critic, I conjure thee. If thou haft been able of thyself to difcover how these Things can be, applaud thine own Sagacity; if not, acknowledge thy Stupidity, and be modestly filent, as becomes fuch a Blockhead.

Having thus, as I conceive, entirely stop'd the Mouths of the Critics; I will now proceed to enumerate the various Excellencies of this kind of Composition.

First,

† Vide Chap. 5. Art. 4. and Chap. 8. Art. 17.

First, It is *New*.

Secondly, It is *Concise*.

Thirdly, It is *Witty*.

Lastly, It is *Surprizing*.

First, it is *New*. It hath been said of old, by one who is still esteem'd to have been a very wise Man in his Day, *that there is nothing new under the Sun*. Now it was the Misfortune of this same wise Man, that he lived before the Invention of Conundrums; otherwise, as their very Essence is Novelty, they would certainly have been excepted. Yet that bare Novelty can be an Excellence, is what perhaps some People may not readily allow. But deplorable sure must be his Ignorance, who hath not discover'd that it is this Quality alone, which hath the Power of recommending
any

any thing to the Attention of the Publick ! Is not our constant Enquiry, whenever we go into a Bookseller's Shop, What have you that is new ? In vain the *Bibliopolist* tells us, that he hath *Homer*, or *Virgil*, or *Shakespear*, or *Milton* ; these Authors are *old*, and tho' we are ever so much Strangers to their Works, we are so well acquainted with their Names, that they have lost the Grace of Novelty, and have consequently no Charms left to excite in us the least Curiosity to read. I might therefore securely rest the Success of my present Work on the single Merit of its Novelty ; every Line of it is new, so new that it may justly excite Astonishment how many of the Thoughts could ever have Entrance into a Writer's Head. But
 farther

farther to secure it a kind Reception amongst modern Readers, it is

Secondly, *Concise*. When one takes into Consideration the prodigious Hurry in which all fine Gentlemen and Ladies live, and the great Importance of those Pursuits in which they are generally engaged, how strong a Proof is it of their Love of Letters, that the retaining even an Ability to read is not a thing infinitely below their Regard ! Great Merit, therefore, must that Writer have, who contrives to waste as little of such precious Time as possible, in so trivial an Amusement as that of reading. A Conundrum ! why it is shorter even than an Epigram. And that great Wit who declared of an Epigram, that it was the

the highest Effort of human Genius, what would he have said, had he now been alive, of a Conundrum? Besides this, it has another extraordinary Quality, it will set the finest young Gentleman, or the gayest young Lady, a thinking; which is a Point very rarely, and with great Difficulty accomplish'd. If any one shall here be so impertinent as to ask to what Purpose they should think on such ridiculous Subjects; it may be a sufficient Answer to say, that in all Probability they will think to as much Purpose upon a Conundrum as any thing else. And this leads me to the *third* Excellence which I propose to consider, namely, that

It is *Witty*. The great Philosopher Mr. *Locke*, in his *Essay on the Human*

Human Understanding, tells us, that “ Wit lies in the Assemblage of Ideas, and putting those together with Quickness and Variety, wherein can be found *any* Resemblance or Congruity, thereby to make up pleasant Pictures, and agreeable Visions in the Fancy.”

And presently after he adds, that “ The Mind, without looking any farther, rests satisfied with the Agreeableness of the Picture, and the Gaiety of the Fancy; and it is a kind of an Affront to go about to examine it, by the severe Rules of Truth and good Reason.”

If this be a true Definition of Wit, methinks we shall need no farther Proof that Conundrums are witty; for so exactly do they tally with it, that one may fairly conclude the Philosopher had this Species of Wit

particularly in his Eye. This being admitted, we not only gain a Proof that Conundrums are witty, which some perhaps might still be hardy enough to dispute, but we have got on our Side a grave Authority in their Behalf. Let all little Smatterers, therefore, in Wit and Humour, be careful how they throw out their idle Criticisms on this our Performance; always remembering what this great Philosopher hath told them, that it is an Affront to examine these sublime Mysteries, by the severe Rules of Truth and good Reason. And this Mention of their Sublimity and Mysteriousness naturally brings me to the last Excellence, which I propose to consider in a Conundrum, which is, that

It

It is *Surprizing*. In this Particular it is indeed superior to all other Compositions whatsoever. Every Word, every Syllable, nay sometimes every Letter is big with Wonders. And it would be really matter of great Entertainment to trace the Ideas which must have arisen in the Brain of the Conundrumist during the Course of his profound Meditation on many of these amazing Productions. One may safely, however, appeal to the Testimony of every understanding Reader, whether he is not frequently astonish'd that such prodigious Conceptions could possibly have entered into the Mind of a mortal Man. Now if in these high Speculations he should sometimes soar beyond the Reach of thy limited Capacity, or sink too deep for thy

Profundity to fathom, think not, O shallow Critic ! because thy narrow Mind cannot comprehend his vast Ideas, that thou hast therefore a Licence to cavil, and fancy him to be dull ; far better will it become thee, with great Modesty and Humility, what thou canst not understand, implicitly to admire.

And thus I hope I have sufficiently prov'd that this fine Composition, a Conundrum, hath all the Recommendations to a modern Reader, that can possibly be desir'd: It is *New, Concise, Witty, and Surprising*. Nothing therefore remains but that the Study of Conundrums should be recommended to the young Gentlemen of this refin'd and learned Age. But there are two excellent Reasons why this should not be done. First,

First, It might interrupt the many worthy and laudable Pursuits in which our hopeful young Gentry are at present engag'd. In particular, it might interfere with their Studies in the Laws (not of their Country, but) of Chance; and hinder the Progress of their Knowledge in the Principles (not of Government, but) of Gaming.

Secondly, The generous Patronage and Encouragement which our Ministers of State, and prime Nobility, so remarkably afford to every Person of Genius in any Art or Science, might possibly, thro' their fine Taste, distinguishing Judgment, and great Eagerness to honour and reward uncommon Parts and Ingenuity, be all transfer'd to the Writers of Conundrums ;

drums; to the unspeakable Loss and Discouragement of all other Arts and Sciences, which at present flourish so prodigiously under their benignant Influence.

For these two notorious Reasons, I forbear to recommend the writing of Conundrums to the Literati of the present Age: yet as I have the Cultivation of this Study prodigiously at Heart, I earnestly entreat my fair Country-women, the young Ladies of *Great Britain*, that they will turn their Thoughts this Way. And to induce them to do this, there are also two notable Reasons. First, notwithstanding any barbarous Insinuation to the contrary, they are undoubtedly blest with Genius, Understanding, and Application sufficient to enable them

them to make a considerable Figure in this Science. And secondly, it will certainly put them upon a Footing; as to Literary Accomplishments, with the Generality of their Admirers, the fine young Gentlemen.



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T H E

Old L A D Y detected, &c.

C H A P. I.

Her P E R S O N.

- 1 S Allow
- 2 A Tate
- 3 Peking
- 4 The Beetle
- 5 Queer Eyes lash'd (Anglice Queries)
- 6 This hangs on one side, and that on
the other
- 7 Rot-ten
- 8 Lanthorn-jaw'd
- 9 Ho-arfe
- 10 *Ajax*, vel A Jakes
- 11 Beard.
- C
12. Pimpled

- 12 Pimpled.
 - 13 Piquet, or peaked.
 - 14 With poking.
 - 15 Empty baggs.
 - 16 A Rose to her Head.
 - 17 Low.
 - 18 Rough red and hard, (read and heard.)
 - 19 Unhand Di (unhandy.)
 - 20 A Stick. (Afs Tick.)
 - 21 *Hob Lyn.* (Hobbling.)
-

C H A P. II.

Her TEMPER and DISPOSITIONS.

- 1 **A** High Spirit.
- 2 **A** Ha-fty.
- 3 Cholerick. (Rick, a Hay-stack.)
- 4 Termagant. (Term-mag-ant.)
- 5 A Scold. (Afs-cold.)
- 6 A Lyar.

- 7 A Tale-bearer.
- 8 A Backbiter.
- 9 Insolent, (in sole lent)
- 10 Stupid. (stew pied.)
- 11 Scilly.
- 12 Ma-lice.
- 13 Envy. (an Envoy.)
- 14 A Slug-gard.
- 15 A Niggard, *i. e.* a nigh Guard.
- 16 Tip-ling.
- 17 Gor-man-dising.
- 18 Slaternly.

Dear Reader, as I apprehend thee to be extremely dull, I will explain this to thee Syllable by Syllable. Slate is the Covering of a House; a poor Man gets no more than he can earn; and a vain one is subject to lye.

19 A Draggletail. I explain'd the last, find out this thyself.

20 A Beldam.

C H A P. III.

Her Dress.

- 1 **A** Mob fasten'd with nine Pins.
- 2 A Solitaire, *i. e.* A light Air Solo.
- 3 A Pilgrim.
- 4 Jumps.
- 5 A Farthingale.
- 6 A Shaggreen Fly. (Petticoat.)
- 7 A Sack made of check'd Lutestring.
- 8 Dresden,
- 9 Cat gut,
- 10 Muffins,
- 11 Morocco braided up,
- 12 Jew-ells.
- 13 A Watch.
- 14 A Fan a tick.
- 15 A Capuchin.
- 16 Reading.

CHAP. IV.

Her LIBRARY.

DIVINITY.

- 1 **T**Aylor.
- 2 Cave.
- 3 Waterland.
- 4 Clarke.
- 5 Barrow.
- 6 Pearson.
- 7 Kettlewell.
- 8 Newcomb.
- 9 Tennison.
- 10 Tillotson.
- 11 Blackall.
- 12 Stanhope. (stand up.)
- 13 Ridley.
- 14 Patrick.
- 15 Cudworth.
- 16 Stillingfleet.

- 17 The Bible.
- 18 Common Prayer.
- 19 Whole Duty of Man.

HISTORY.

- 1 Rawleigh.
- 2 Burnet.
- 3 Rapin and Tin-dale.
- 4 Baker.
- 5 Carte.
- 6 Salmon.
- 7 Hyde, Earl of Clarendon.
- 8 Whitlock.
- 9 Rushworth.
- 10 Ralph.

POETRY.

- 1 Philips.
- 2 Congreve.
- 3 Mallet.
- 4 Francis.
- 5 Southern.

- 6 Rowe.
- 7 Beaumont and Fletcher. (a Fletcher is
an old Trade, the Buſineſs of which
was to make Arrows.)
- 8 Centlivre.
- 9 Trap.
- 10 Ben Johnſon.
- 11 Addiſon.
- 12 Butler.
- 13 Garth.
- 14 Akinſide.
- 15 Watſon.
- 16 Maſon.
- 17 Grey.
- 18 Lowth.
- 19 Wicherly.
- 20 Lyttleton and Weſt.
- 21 Shakeſpear.
- 22 Dryden.
- 23 Pope.
- 24 Matt. Prior.
- 25 Swift.

- 26 Suckling.
- 27 Gay.
- 28 Ogleby.
- 29 Parnelle.
- 30 Oldham.
- 31 Nat. Lee.
- 32 Cowley.
- 33 Otway. (remember *b* is no Letter.)
- 34 Blackmore, Sir Richard.
- 35 Milton.
- 36 Whitehead.
- 37 Young.
- 38 Rochester.
- 39 More.
- 40 Duck.

M I S C E L L A N I E S.

- 1 Chambers's Dictionary.
- 2 Newton.
- 3 Locke.
- 4 Temple.
- 5 Turkish

- 5 Turkish Spy.
- 6 Pamela.
- 7 Spectator. (The Country People in
Derbyshire call all high Rocks Tors.)
- 8 Melmoth.
- 9 Boyle.
- 10 Oceana. (O see Anna.)
- 11 Bull-in-broke.
- 12 Hobbs.
- 13 Wollaston.
- 14 Orrery.
- 15 The Fable of the Bees.
- 16 Fielding. (feel'd in.)
- 17 Polymetis.
- 18 Bacon.
- 19 Tatler.
- 20 Guardian.
- 21 The Freeholder.

CHAP. V.

Her Dressing Room.

- 1 Drawers.
- 2 A Toilet.
- 3 A Looking-Glass.
- 4 A Basin.
- 5 A Comb.
- 6 Pomatum. (Pome eat 'em.)
- 7 Powder Box.
- 8 Pat-ches.
- 9 A Wash Ball.
- 10 Paint.
- 11 Hungary Water.
- 12 Too well. (a Towel.)
- 13 Apeing Cousin. (a Pincushion.)
- 14 Abigail.
- 15 A Fire-woman.

CHAP.

CHAP. VI.

Her BED CHAMBER.

1 **A** Feather Bed.

2 A Tester.

3 Pillow.

4 A Blanket.

5 A Quilt.

6 She ets.

7 Urinel.

8 Close-stool.

D 2

CHAP.

CHAP. VII.

Her PARLOUR.

- 1 **T**He Harpsichord.
- 2 A Dumb-waiter.
- 3 Pictures.
- 4 The Carpet.
- 5 A Beaufet, alias a Buffet.
- 6 An India Screen.
- 7 Such as drink **T** to Breakfast, and will
put Abel to it; may possibly make it
Table.
- 8 A Scru-tore.
- 9 Ch-air.
- 10 A Decanter.
- 11 Chin-a.
- 12 Lasses with a Gee are Glasses.

CHAP.

C H A P. VIII.

Her KITCHEN.

- 1 **T**He Grate.
- 2 Every Little John is commonly
called a Jack.
- 3 A Dreffer.
- 4 The Cook.
- 5 A Spit hung on the Rack.
- 6 A Plate Rack.
- 7 Pewter.
- 8 Brasses.
- 9 The Scullion.
- 10 Tongues.
- 11 The Gridiron. (a gree'd Iron)
- 12 Cull-in-dear.
- 13 Stoves.
- 14 Po-ker. (cur.)
- 15 La-dell. (who would not overlook or
excuse a little false Spelling for the
Sake of so much Wit?)

- 16 A Sieve.
- 17 The Bellows.
- 18 Matches.

C H A P. IX.

An imperfect Sketch of her Niece the fair
INCOGNITA.

- 1 **L** I-lies.
- 2 Blu-lies.
- 3 Black and cur-led.
- 4 Eloquent and Languishing.
- 5 Pouting and red. (read.)
- 6 Del-i-cate.
- 7 Fine Neck all.
- 8 Soft **Bubbies**, Anglice **Boobies**.
- 9 Well shap'd (Welch ap'd.)
- 10 Hand some.
- 11 Tapred and round. (cur.)
- 12 Well turn'd. (who would
- 13 **All** excuse a little false spelling for the
sake of so much Wit?

- 13 All over neat.
- 14 Reserv'd.
- 15 Gentle.
- 16 Sincere.
- 17 Grateful.
- 18 Silent.
- 19 Humble.
- 20 Patient.
- 21 Affable. (A Fable.)
- 22 Chaste.
- 23 Her Maidenhead.

F I N I S,

[31]

12 All over near.

14 Rectiv'd.

15 Gentle.

16 Sincere.

17 Grateful.

18 Silent.

19 Humble.



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